



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2021
MARCH 10, 2021 (Reconvened)

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 11:17 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office. The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 6:06 pm on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

PRESENT: Commissioner Tricia Barker
Commissioner John Coupar
Commissioner Dave Demers, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Camil Dumont, Chair
Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Commissioner John Irwin
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Donnie Rosa, General Manager
Cheryl Chan, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk
Jessica Kulchyski, Meeting Assistant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The meeting is being held on the land respectfully and with honour to each other, the land and the communities that the Commissioners serve. The Chair invited Commissioners to join him in committing to actions of reconciliation in their deliberations and decisions.

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Board will go into meetings next month/prior to the next Regular Board Meeting, which are closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph(s):

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council [Board] considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the City and Park Board if they were held in public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting – February 22, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Park Board minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that was advised that from February 23, 2021 to 3:00 pm on March 8, 2021, the General Manager's office received the following correspondence with respect to the Board agenda items:

- Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive 2021 Motion on Notice: 233 oppose the motion; 134 support for the motion; 6 support the horse drawn carriage ban and support the motion; 14 oppose a permanent car ban or road closure; 3 support a permanent bike lane on the roadway in Stanley Park; 1 noted the lack of consultation on the motion; 1 supports slower bikes on the seawall and faster riders on the roadway.

All correspondence has been sent directly to Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – March 8, 2021 (Reconvened on March 9, 2021)

The Board considered the report containing recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee. Its items of business included:

1. REPORT: Stanley Park Bright Nights – Firefighters Burn Fund
2. REPORT: Burrard View Park – Proposed Vancouver Urban Food Forest
3. REPORT BACK: Park Board Procedure By-law Update.

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of March 8, 2021 (reconvened on March 9, 2021), as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 11:21 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened

The Chair reconvened the Board meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:06 pm.

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Park Board, reported:

- Planning and design is underway for East Park, a new waterfront park in Olympic Village, which includes renewal of a portion of the seawall south of Science World
- Public engagement for renewal of the Coopers' Park Dog Off-Leash area will commence on March 19, 2021
- A public request for expressions of interest (RFEOI) for consultant teams for the Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan is expected to be issued within the next week
- International Women's Day events:
 - Falaise Park Fieldhouse artists in residence group Girls Rock Camp hosted a DJ Live set from the fieldhouse featuring local, national and international women-fronted bands
 - Echo Park North Film Centre, the artists in residence at Moberly Park Fieldhouse, screened work by women film makers from around the world in the windows of the Moberly Fieldhouse
 - x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam) Coast Salish artist Chrystal Sparrow, who is artist in residence in the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Cultural Residency at the AFrame Fieldhouse in Stanley Park, was live on video on her Facebook page, beading and sharing words of encouragement for Indigenous women
- Spring activities at VanDusen Botanical Gardens:
 - VanDusen spring camps
 - VanDusen "Guardians of the Garden"
- Staff highlights of the Park Board Extended Leadership Team

- Council business related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
 - Motion on Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the City of Vancouver
 - Motion on Understanding COVID-19 Recovery Through Economic and Cultural Stimulus Projects
 - Motion on Don't Feed the Wildlife
 - Report on Women's Equity Strategy Updates and Next Steps recommending that Council direct staff to send this report to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Public Library and Vancouver Police Department Board for information.
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from February 23 to March 8, 2021.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive – 2021

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At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Dumont stepped down as Chair in order to introduce a motion and to participate in the discussion. Commissioner Demers, as Vice-Chair, assumed the chair.

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Commissioner Dumont introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

WHEREAS:

1. On January 17, 2019, the City of Vancouver declared a climate emergency. To avoid catastrophic climate change, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that we must limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This means slashing carbon pollution globally by 45% below 2010 levels by 2030, and reaching net zero by 2050;
2. City of Vancouver Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability department reports that nearly 40% of Vancouver's carbon pollution comes from gasoline and diesel-powered motor vehicles. On November 17, 2020, Vancouver City Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan, which sets targets for 2030 including two-thirds of trips in Vancouver to be by active transportation and transit and to encourage more walking, biking and transit use;
3. The Park Board passed a motion on June 8, 2020, to study the long-term feasibility of reducing vehicle traffic in Stanley Park (now referred to as the Stanley Park Mobility Study). Staff reported that this process will take place over

the next two years, and will include a broad data gathering and full public engagement process;

4. Between April 8 and September 26 in 2020, there was some form of space dedicated to bicycles on Park Drive to help facilitate safe physical distancing on the Stanley Park seawall;
5. From April 8 to June 22 in 2020, Park Drive was closed to all vehicles and cycling volume increased by 180% compared to the same time period in 2019. Park Drive was reopened to one lane of vehicle traffic on June 22, 2020. Bicycle ridership remained high through the park from that date to the removal of the temporary bicycle lane in late September, despite a massive drop in tourism to Vancouver in that same time frame; and
6. On November 23, 2020, a staff presentation was provided to the Park Board on the [“Stanley Park Mobility Study: Survey Results, Data Analysis and Next Steps”](#). Survey Results showed that the majority of the respondents supported the temporary changes that had been implemented in 2020.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to plan for and implement a temporary bike path on Park Drive in Stanley Park dedicated to cyclists, with an aim to have it in use as soon as is operationally reasonable, and to remain in place until approximately October 31, 2021;
- B. THAT staff work closely with park stakeholders, communicate and consult with the appropriate City of Vancouver advisory committees including but not limited to the Seniors Advisory Committee and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, implement improvements and innovations, and apply learnings from the 2020 temporary traffic management plan in Stanley Park, and that the temporary changes in 2021 be observed as a case study as part of the Stanley Park Mobility Study and support the Beach Avenue Interim Design; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Board direct staff to report back with a summary of the data, outcomes, and observations of the 2021 measures.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board refer consideration of the Motion on Notice titled “Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive – 2021” to a Park Board Committee meeting where the public could speak to the motion.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Couper, Giesbrecht
Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Irwin, Mackinnon

Question on the Main Motion

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to plan for and implement a temporary bike path on Park Drive in Stanley Park dedicated to cyclists, with an aim to have it in use as soon as is operationally reasonable, and to remain in place until approximately October 31, 2021;
- B. THAT staff work closely with park stakeholders, communicate and consult with the appropriate City of Vancouver advisory committees including but not limited to the Seniors Advisory Committee and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, implement improvements and innovations, and apply learnings from the 2020 temporary traffic management plan in Stanley Park, and that the temporary changes in 2021 be observed as a case study as part of the Stanley Park Mobility Study and support the Beach Avenue Interim Design; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Board direct staff to report back with a summary of the data, outcomes, and observations of the 2021 measures.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

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At 7:51 pm Commissioner Dumont resumed the Chair.

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Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:52 pm and reconvened at 7:59 pm.

2. Protecting the Irreplaceable View from the Pinnacle of Vancouver

Commissioner Coupar introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar

SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver is engaged in a public consultation process for the Broadway Plan specific to the area between Clark Drive and Vine Street. The plan is focused on opportunities to integrate new housing, jobs, and amenities around the new Broadway Subway in the neighbourhoods of Mount Pleasant, Fairview, and Kitsilano;
2. Planning materials for the Broadway Plan public consultation process suggest that existing zoning height and density restrictions would limit employment and housing capacity over the long term, lessen the attractiveness of Broadway as a

diverse jobs and residential area, and may cause employers and residents to choose to locate elsewhere in the city or region, including in places which are dispersed and difficult to serve by transit;

3. Public Consultation for the Broadway Plan will include a review of City policies that restrict height and density in the Broadway Corridor, including a review of existing view corridors and other height and density considerations, as part of the planning program;
4. The Broadway Plan review of height and density policies will encompass and potentially impact the protected Queen Elizabeth Park View Corridor #3 – specifically as noted under:
 - Section 3.1 which acknowledges the importance of our downtown skyline as a recognizable symbol of Vancouver. This view outlines the downtown skyline from the highest vantage in the city;
 - Sections 3.2.1 to 3.2.4 which highlight mountain ranges from Mount Strachan to Mount Burwell;
 - Additionally, within sections 3.2.1 to 3.2.3, the higher buildings of the downtown which rise to form the iconic dome shape of the downtown skyline; and
 - Section 3.2.4a which is located in the lower east part of this view and was created to preserve views to the waters of Burrard Inlet;
5. Queen Elizabeth Park is an iconic, highly valued horticultural jewel in our city. Along with the Bloedel Conservatory at the pinnacle of the park, the park is a major draw for floral display enthusiasts and view-seekers, as well as a popular backdrop for wedding photos. At 125 metres above sea level, the park is the highest point in Vancouver and provides spectacular views of the city, the mountains on the North Shore, and the park itself;
6. The view corridor from Queen Elizabeth Park is irreplaceable. The view has immense, demonstrable value for our city, its people, and the larger city economy. If this view were to be lost and/or negatively impacted through any change brought about by the Broadway Plan, the city would be greatly diminished – not only in the eyes of our city’s residents but also in the eyes of the world

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board opposes any change to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park;
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board General Manager be directed to advise the City of Vancouver planning team of this decision by the Vancouver Park Board; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair advise the City of Vancouver and the Mayor and Council of Park Board opposition to any planned or proposed change to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board refer consideration of the Motion on Notice titled “Protecting the Irreplaceable View from the Pinnacle of Vancouver” to the March 29, 2021 Park Board Committee meeting where the public could speak to the motion.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Coupar

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT the motion be amended to read:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board expresses concerns about potential changes to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park;
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board General Manager be directed to advise the City of Vancouver planning team of these concerns by the Vancouver Park Board; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair advise the City of Vancouver and the Mayor and Council of Park Board’s concerns regarding any planned or proposed change to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin

Opposed: Mackinnon

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board expresses concerns about potential changes to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park;
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board General Manager be directed to advise the City of Vancouver planning team of these concerns by the Vancouver Park Board; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair advise the City of Vancouver and the Mayor and Council of Park Board’s concerns regarding any planned or proposed change to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht

Opposed: Irwin, Mackinnon

3. Low-Intensity Turf Maintenance for Increase Financial and Ecological Resilience

Commissioner Demers introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. Park Board maintains over 1,360 hectares of parks and open space, of which approximately 470 hectares are classified as 'turf surfaces'. The main types of turf surfaces in the 2015 inventory are high-use, irrigated turf on soil or sand (approx. 100 hectares); high use, non-irrigated turf (484 hectares); non-irrigated with limited or no mowing (approx. 300 hectares); and about 1 hectare of meadow (mowed high, irregularly);
2. As a response to the budget shortfalls and hiring freeze the COVID-19 pandemic engendered, Park Board staff deferred the mowing on certain turf areas of lesser use for some of the 2020 growing season. The continuation of this pilot is being coordinated for 2021;
3. A [recent meta-analysis of research conducted in Europe and North America](#) provides aggregated evidence that intense lawn management practices are responsible for consistent and distinct cumulative effects on different facets of urban ecology. Of the negative effects to be noted are the increase of pest species, and diminished abundance and diversity of invertebrates and flora, which provide critical nesting habitat and food sources for birds and their young;
4. A peer-reviewed meta-analysis published in the journal Biological Conservation in 2018 found that 40% of insect species are declining and a third may be endangered. The total mass of insects is falling by an alarming 2.5% per year. This decline in insects limits the food source for insectivore bird populations in parks;
5. The cost of maintaining a turf area is directly proportional to the frequency and complexity of mowing it. To this, costs for irrigation, fertilizing and renovation may be redirected to resource low mow areas maintenance. Furthermore, the 2-stroke and 4-stroke engines that power the required maintenance equipment result in considerable noise, greenhouse gas emissions and other types of pollution;
6. An economic case study of the maintenance costs of City-owned turf assets in Trois-Rivières, Canada, suggests that cost savings of 36% may be possible with a modest reduction of mowing frequency. This study included costs of workers' salaries, equipment and fuel, but did not include fertilizers or pesticides, nor any indirect economic benefits such as increase pollination, carbon sequestration, etc.;
7. [VanPlay, the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#), recommends increasing the proportion of naturalized areas in the parks system and to expand the variety of ecosystems in all park typologies to improve biodiversity, increase

connectivity, and increase access to nature throughout the city, with a focus on Initiative Zones;

8. VanPlay also recommends a review of Parks Operations in order to mitigate, and make it more resilient to, the impacts of climate change by planning park considering future trends, managing current challenges, increasing efficiency, being more sustainable and ensuring appropriate funding;
9. Vancouver City Council approved an [update to the Green Operations Plan](#) (2020) which identifies opportunities to reduce fleet emissions, and increase air quality through operational and equipment changes. It also sets targets to increase naturally managed areas in parks, including low mow meadow areas, by 2-3 ha annually; and
10. The updated [Vancouver Bird Strategy](#) (2020) identifies protecting and restoring habitat as a key opportunity to being a bird friendly city. Further, it recommends applying and integrating bird friendly practices into daily operations and maintenance work to increase habitat and naturalized areas in parks.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to establish incremental targets and develop an implementation plan, including any new equipment required, to defer and/or alter mowing regimes on appropriate turf surfaces maintained by Park Board staff, with consideration to park typologies and usage intensity;
- B. THAT the current temporary changes in mowing practices (COVID-19-related pilot) be tracked and documented as to quantify and qualify their effect on biodiversity, ecological benefits, operational efficiency/diversification, emission comparability, and financial sustainability; and
- C. FURTHER that staff to report back to the Board with their findings.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board refer consideration of the Motion on Notice titled “Low-Intensity Turf Maintenance for Increase Financial and Ecological Resilience” to the Park Board Committee meeting where the public could speak to the motion.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Coupar

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Question on the Main Motion

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to establish incremental targets and develop an implementation plan, including any new equipment required, to defer

and/or alter mowing regimes on appropriate turf surfaces maintained by Park Board staff, with consideration to park typologies and usage intensity;

- B. THAT the current temporary changes in mowing practices (COVID-19-related pilot) be tracked and documented as to quantify and qualify their effect on biodiversity, ecological benefits, operational efficiency/diversification, emission comparability, and financial sustainability; and
- C. FURTHER that staff to report back to the Board with their findings.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Irwin wished all an enjoyable Passover, which will begin on March 27, 2021.

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member requested the quarterly revenue losses to the Park Board in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and road closures in Stanley Park. This would include impacts via revenue sharing agreements and lease payment reductions with any Stanley Park partners (e.g. Aquarium, restaurants, gift shops, concessions, train, horse & carriage, tour bus fees, and other revenue generating businesses).
2. A Board member requested an update on when repairs to the water feature in the quarry garden at Queen Elizabeth Park will be completed.
3. A Board member requested the reason for closing Park Drive from Ceperley Meadow to Beach Avenue and who made this decision
4. A Board member asked if consideration had been given to install notice boards at Oppenheimer Park to provide information about the park closure (e.g. for remediation).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:03 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair